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EDITORIAL COMMENT.

Annales du Musée du Congo. — The Congo Free State, one of the last born of the nations, is demonstrating its right to a place in civilization by the publication of a series of monographs on its natural history. These are issued by the order of the Secretary of State as *Annales du Musée du Congo*. Four articles, or fascicles, have appeared — two “Illustrations de la Flore du Congo,” by Wildemann and Durand, and two “Matériaux pour la Faune du Congo,” by G. A. Boulenger. These last, by the able ichthyologist of the British Museum, treat of the fishes of the Congo, numerous new species being described with excellent figures. The Free State is to be congratulated on its early attention to its local natural history, as well as on the wise choice of the hands in which its material is placed.

A Botanical Calendar. — Under the editorship of P. Sydow the first number of the *Deutscher Botaniker-Kalender* has made its appearance — a little book of 198 pages of text and many pages of advertisements of botanical interest. The first 108 pages are devoted to the calendar proper, there being one page for each week, with the dates of the birth and death of distinguished botanists. It is noteworthy that there are only twenty-two days in the year without such data, and on some days there are as many as four entries. The calendar is printed on one side of the page only, leaving the opposite side for notes and memoranda, for which there is also room under each day. The contents of the book includes the usual tables of coinage, weights and measures, and postal regulations; the rules of botanical nomenclature of the Royal Botanical Garden at Berlin; a list of the cryptogamic exsiccata, systematically arranged; a list of botanical gardens, geographically arranged; a similar list of botanical and natural history museums; and, finally, an alphabetical list of the collections in botanical museums and herbaria. The omissions and inaccuracies usual to the first edition of a book of this character are painfully in evidence as regards American botanical matters. The value of the work would be much enhanced if it included the *personnel* of the different botanical institutions given, and also a botanical directory. We cannot, however, but praise this effort of Dr. Sydow,

and are glad to know that there is so much room for improvement. We wish the *Kalender* every success, and hope to see it a permanent institution, and call upon American botanists to see that our botanical institutions are fully and correctly represented in the edition for 1900. The book is published by the Borntraegers at Berlin for three marks.

The Beiträge zur Biologie der Pflanzen, published at irregular intervals under the editorial care of the late Professor Cohn, of Breslau, has been recommenced with Dr. Brefeld as editor. While the retention of the original title is entirely commendable, it is to be regretted that the new volume should be issued as "Herausgegeben von Dr. Ferdinand Cohn." A change in expression, similar to that made on the title-page of the *Jahrbücher für wissenschaftlichen Botanik* after Professor Pringsheim's death, would better have expressed the facts, while securing the desirable perpetuation of Professor Cohn's name in connection with the journal.

"**Natural Science**," with the initial number of Vol. XIV, the first under the new management, makes its appearance in a new dress. The greenish tint of the cover has given way to a grayer tone, and the typography of the title-page is somewhat changed. The journal is now printed on heavier calendered paper, and is, on the whole, improved in appearance. The general makeup is unchanged, except for the addition of the new column of "Fresh Facts," which comprises brief references to facts of interest in current literature. We wish our esteemed contemporary a most prosperous and happy new year.